THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The hon. Member is aware that in the mufassal courts, even in the District Courts, most of the arguments are advanced only in the regional language, namely, Tamil, and cross-examination is done in Tamil. Only the recording of evidence is done in English and the judgment is delivered in English. We will have to consider how far this can be changed. But as I stated, we have already formulated a phased programme of adoption of Tamil at the various levels, and we propose to stick to it.

MR. SPEAKER: May I suggest that we take up the short notice question 14 also? It is a question by Sri A. A. Rasheed on the same subject.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Yes, Sir.

Report of the Law Commission

*14 *S.N.Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Union Government have asked for the opinion of the Government on the Report of the Law Commission on Judicial Administration;

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of the reply sent by this Government will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) No reply has yet been sent. The Commission's report has just been received and is under examination.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: Is it a fact, Sir, that the Law Commission report has criticised the appointment of magistrates in our State as having been made on considerations other than merit?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: All sorts of allegations have been made by the Law Commission which are not warranted by facts. As a matter of fact with reference to the appointments to the Supreme Court and the High Court, the Union Law Minister has already made a statement on the floor of the Lok Sabha. Sometimes when these Commissions are appointed, they make all sorts of allegations without reference to facts at all.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: May I know, Sir, the steps taken by the Government to make justice cheaper and quicker, as recommended by the Law Commission?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: This is always being attended to by the Government.

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN: Sir, apart from the allegations made by the Law Commission, may I know whether the Government will implement its recommendation to reduce the stamp fee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I have just stated that the report has been received and is under consideration.

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, are there any [a] recommendations by this Law Commission with which our Government agree?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, we have already stated that we have not studied the report.

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SRI A. A. RASHEED : Sir, do the Government propose to raise the age of the High Court Judges in accordance with the recommendation of the Law Commission?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I have just stated that the report is under examination. It is not possible to answer this question. The hon. Member himself is not quite well aware of the exact recommendation of the Law Commission. As a matter of fact, from what I have seen, the recommendation is that the age should not be raised.

Tidal Bore at Dhanushkodi

* 12 *S.N.Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED AND SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a tidal bore flooded Dhanushkodi on 21st February 1959; and

(*b*) if so, the extent of damage caused to the buildings?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Except that about 200 houses were flooded with sea water, which drained off subsequently, there was no loss of human life and damage to property was negligible.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Sir, may I know whether the Government paid any compensation to the affected people?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : I think there was no damage. So, no compensation was given.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Sir, what are the steps taken by the Government to prevent such damages in future?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : The Government of India are taking the necessary steps to prevent damage.

Utilization of " Pambaiyar River Waters "

* 13 *S.N.Q.*—SRI A. R. SUBBIAH MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government are carrying on any correspondence with the Kerala Government for holding a meeting between the two States to discuss the utilization of " Pambaiyar River Waters; " and

(*b*) if so, when the meeting is expected to take place?

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[a] Expunged as ordered by the Chair.